

In carrying out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the LEA and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by an agenda and sign in sheets. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 25, 2023.



## Mobile County Public School System

### Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2023-2024



1 Magnum Pass

Mobile, AL 36618



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Mobile County PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Parent and Family Engagement Written Policy (Sec. 1116(2))

### Sec. 1116(a)(2)(A))

**A. Describe how the Local Education will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d).**

The Mobile County Public School System's District Parent Advisory Committee which consists of parents as representatives from each school will participate in decision making for the district while providing feedback from local schools regarding the LEA plan. The District Parent Advisory Committee will meet each semester to review, support and provide improvement as necessary. Parent input is sought on all plans at both the district and school level. The names of these parents will be provided as contacts on the LEA website.

### Sec. 1116(a)(2)(B))

**8. Describe how the Local Education Agency will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.**

The school district will provide parent program managers, parent organizers and school improvement specialists to provide technical assistance, coordination and support to all Title I schools to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to support parent and family engagement activities. The LEA and local schools will provide at a minimum quarterly parent workshops/meeting. Local schools may fund parent organizers to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to improve parental involvement. The English Language division's Bilingual/Migrant Parent Specialist will provide additional assistance and support to migrant and English Language Learners. Community stakeholders and partners in education are also included and receive technical assistance to support parent and family engagement while building capacity within the schools. Community partners will also be encouraged to participate in all activities to support effective parent and family engagement.

### Sec. 1116(a)(2)(C))

**C. Describe how the Local Education Agency will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.**

The LEA will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies through the Parents as First Teachers program, Head Start Programs; as well as the Office of School Readiness "First Class" Pre

K Parents are encouraged to participate in all parent and family engagement activities that occur in the system. A

Parent and Family Engagement Plan is developed and revised each year at the school level and parental input is garnered. Plans assure that parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate with other relevant Federal, State and local laws and programs.

### Sec. 1116(a)(2)(D))

**D. Describe how the Local Education Agency will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying:**

**(i) barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background)**

The school district will utilize the Continuous Improvement Review process to identify barriers to greater participation and assess the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy, activities, procedures, and policies as they relate to continuous improvement of parent involvement in schools. This also allows for parent participation in the continuous improvement plan process. The annual survey will be provided and made available to all parents within the LEA. The survey will be available in a language and format for all parents to understand. The survey will be provided using social media as well as the school website, parent email distribution lists and hard copies are available. Parents may also request to have anything mailed or pick up hard copies at the school.

**(ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers.**

MCPSS will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation in assisting with the learning of their children and engaging with school personnel and teachers. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement with teachers and school leaders to assist their children and remove any barriers to learning.

**(iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions**

The LEA will use the Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family School Partnership strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The strategies will build capacity among families and schools while supporting student learning.

### Sec. 1116(a)(2)(E))

**E. Describe how the Local Education Agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.**

The findings of the annual evaluation of the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to revise, if necessary the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The LEA District Parent Advisory Committee will review the findings of the annual evaluation of the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and if necessary, revise to design evidence based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement. The revised policy will be shared with local school parent advisory committees for further review and input.

See. I JI 6(a)(2)(F))

**F. Describe how the Local Education Agency will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.**

The Mobile County Public School System's District Parent Advisory Committee which consists of parents from a representative number of schools will participate in decision making for the district while providing feedback from local schools regarding Parental and Family Engagement and the district's Title I program. The district Parent Advisory Committee will meet each semester. The Mobile County Public School System's website "For Parents" has information posted for all parents including the Parent Advisory Committee meeting dates and contact information for members. The district's quarterly magazine will provide information to parents and encourage parent and family engagement. The parent advisory committee members who are also representatives on the local school parent advisory committees will assist with developing, revising and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy while addressing survey results.

**In order to build capacity for Parent and Family Engagement, the Local Education Agency will ensure effective involvement of parents and will support a partnership among the schools involved, the parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA shall:**

**G. Describe how it will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.**

The Mobile County Public School System's focus for the 20232024 school year is Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, ACAP, ACT, attendance and technology. Parent meetings and social media connections will be held through the district to provide training and assistance with Schoology, ACAP, ACT, and attendance along with available resources. Parents will also participate in and receive information to support school to school transitions. Technology will continue to be a focus in order to bring parents into 21st Century Learning; including: basic computer usage, PowerSchool, online curriculum programs, SCHOOL in SITES, online registration, district parent communication tools and learning platforms to support student achievement. The district will implement an onsite "Parent Connect Cafe" in the Academic Affairs building which will have computer stations available for parents during central office hours. Parents will also have the opportunity to monitor their child's progress using PowerSchool by having access to computers at each school and central office. Central office personnel will coordinate the parent teacher student partnership conferences that take place in the fall of each year. Parents are provided reports on their child's expectations and actual progress on various assessments and supports that effect student achievement such as attendance.

**H. Describe how it will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.**

The school district will provide professional development for parents on how to effectively communicate with schools. Workshops such as, test prep, partnership conferences, ACT, ACAP and technology resources will be provided. Transition for Special Needs students, grade to grade transitions, Alabama College and Career Ready Standards will also be provided. Parent literacy and math nights are strongly encouraged to support literacy training and student achievement. The district parent resource center and local school resource centers work with parents to provide materials to support student achievement. Using technology, one to one devices and current polices i.e., "Copyright Piracy" are also addressed as well as digital citizenship. Parents have the opportunity to apply for **Learning Leading University at MCPSS**; a program designed to engage members of our community who are passionate about education, are interested in gaining deeper understanding of issues facing our schools and want to become informed advocates for education and students.

**I. Describe how it will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.**

Professional development will be provided for teachers and staff on actively involving parents, teacher response time and parent communication. New Teacher Orientation will also include professional development for new teachers on how to effectively communicate with parents. The school district's Office of Home School Community Involvement will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental and family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools, parents, and the community. Volunteers are solicited from community organizations to act as mentors and tutors. The establishment of parent resource centers in participating schools is strongly encouraged by the school district along with a district Parent Resource Center. The district has three Parent Program Managers and some schools use their Title I dollars to provide local school Parent Program Organizers. October is set aside as "Parent and Family Engagement" month.

**J. Describe how it will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.**

The school district will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies through the Goodwill Gulf Coast, First Teacher: Home Visiting program which uses the "Parents as Teachers" model; Foster Grandparents, Regional Early Childcare and Head Start Programs; as well as the Office of School Readiness "First Class" PreK. Parents are encouraged to participate in all parent and family engagement activities that occur in the system. The Alabama Parent Education Center also serves as an active partner with the LEA. The LEA will focus on providing select high schools with resources to support parents with high school transition and graduation.

**K. Describe how it will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.**

The LEA ensures that all information is available related to school programs, meetings and other activities with a collaborative effort with the district ESL teachers, translators, Catholic Social Services, student support services Social Workers and parent leaders. The district also has access to TRANSACT for ESL families. The English Language division's Bilingual/Migrant Parent Specialist will provide additional assistance and support to migrant and English Language Learners.

**L. Describe how it will ensure provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.**

The school district will provide parent program managers, parent organizers and school improvement specialists to provide technical assistance to all Title I schools to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to improve parent and family engagement. Local schools may fund parent organizers to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to improve parental involvement. The English Language division's Bilingual/Migrant Parent Specialist will provide additional assistance and support to migrant and English Language Learners. Parents may participate in the quarterly district parent advisory committee meetings and also request support for parental involvement through their local school, central office and/or email.

**M. Describe how the LEA may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.**

The LEA will solicit concerns from the district parent advisory committee and annual survey results to review and revise training for teachers and principals. Parents will participate as necessary in such training. Parents who have expertise in training areas pertinent to educators are encouraged to provide training to improve the educational experience of students. Examples of parent volunteers include engineers, gardeners, outdoor classroom experts, and technology support personnel.

**N. Describe how the LEA may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.**

The LEA would address the areas of greatest needs to support literacy training and provide necessary materials and resources for parents and identified schools to support their Parent and Family Engagement Program. Specifically, to support the Alabama Literacy Act as necessary. Literacy materials for necessary literacy training will be purchased through Title I or local funds as necessary to ensure the availability of training and materials.

**O. Describe how the LEA may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school- related meetings and training sessions.**

The LEA will provide funds for expenses related to childcare and transportation to parent meetings, workshops and training to enable parents to participate. The LEA will include funds for such in the district budget to support parent and family engagement.

**P. Describe how the LEA may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.**

The school district will provide parent program managers, parent organizers and school improvement specialists with the guidance of the Office of Home School Community Engagement to provide training and support to encourage and enhance parent engagement. Local schools may also fund parent organizers to ensure the implementation of effective

strategies train parents. The district parent advisory committee will also serve as a trainer of trainer model for Parent and Family Engagement.

**Q. Describe how the LEA may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.**

The LEA will arrange school meetings at a variety of times, before, during and after school to maximize parent engagement and participation. The LEA will also consider other locations and Saturday events as well as "technological communications" i.e., Virtual platforms, WebEx, Google Meet, email and district communications to provide parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school the opportunity participate in a conference. The LEA's Office of Home School Community program manager, district parent program managers and local school parent organizers will assist teachers and other support staff who work directly with participating children with in home conferences as necessary.

**R. Describe how the LEA may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement. The LEA will implement the Dual Capacity Building Framework (version 2) for Family School Partnerships, a scaffold for the development of family engagement strategies, policies and programs. The LEA will provide professional development to support the Dual Capacity Building framework as well as resources. S. Describe how the LEA may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.**

The LEA will establish a districtwide parent advisory council which will consist of a representative number of parents from each Title I school. The parents will participate in the decision making for the LEA which also providing feedback from schools regarding parent and family engagement and the Title I program as applicable. This council will also provide information to keep parents informed. The council will meet quarterly and as needed to represent the LEA. The website includes meeting dates, contact information and other information to keep all parents informed.

**T. Describe how the LEA may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.**

The school district will develop appropriate roles for community based organizations, stakeholders and businesses to support parent engagement activities. The LEA and local school needs assessments determine the various roles developed for community based organizations and businesses to support parent involvement. October is set aside as "Parent and Family Engagement" month, with statewide parenting day celebrated during this time, this serves as an opportunity to showcase one of the many collaborative efforts between the LEA, local schools and community based organizations and businesses. Community and business partners will receive information regarding all activities so they can support and stay informed!

**Sec. 1116(1)**

**U. Describe how the Local Education Agency, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the Informed participation of parents and family members (Including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children, parent and family members of homeless children, and parents and family members of immigrant children), including providing Information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.**